

Message Text

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R 041145Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9443

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5632

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, AF, PK, IR

SUBJ: POSSIBLE UNDERLYING PURPOSE OF IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S
KABUL VISIT

REF: KABUL 5603

1. SUMMARY: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBERI'S AUGUST 27-30
VISIT TO KABUL APPEARED LARGELY CEREMONIAL THROUGH PUBLIC STATE-
MENTS REFLECTED SHARED DESIRE TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN GROWING
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TIES. FROM COMMENT MADE BY PRESIDENT'S
BROTHER MOHAMMAD NAIM AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MAHEED
ABDULLAH WE BELIEVE KHALATBERI RAISED IRANIAN CONCERN OVER
POSSIBLE PAK/AFGHAN CLASHES AND URGED RESTRAINT.

2. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALABERI'S
VISIT APPEARED LARGELY CEREMONIAL: DINNER WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD,
MEETINGS WITH CABINET MINISTERS, JAUNTS TO TOURIST SPOTS.
SYMPTOMATIC OF MUTUAL DESIRE TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN GROWING
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TIES, BUT WITH LITTLE PUBLIC INDICATION
THAT MUCH SUBSTANTIVE GROUND HAD BEEN COVERED.

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3. DURING VISIT DEFONMIN ABDULLAH AND KHALATBERI EXCHANGED

VIEWS IN SPEECHES GIVEN AT BANQUET ON AUGUST 29 (PASHTUNISTAN DAY). WITH REGARD TO AFGHAN/PAK RELATIONS, ABDULLAH REITERATED FAMILIAR AFGHAN SETPIECE ON RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF BALUCH AND PASHTUN PEOPLES, REJECTED PAK CHARGES OF AFGHAN MEDDLING, SCORED INTENSIFIED REPRESSION, MENTIONED PAK AIR SPACE VIOLATIONS, AND ENDED WITH HOPE THAT DIFFERENCES COULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH TALKS AND "IN ACCORDANCE WITH WISHES AND ASPIRATIONS OF PASHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLES." FULLY ONE HALF OF KHALATBERI'S RESPONSE FOCUSED ON PAK-AFGHAN DIFFERENCES. AFTER PROFESSING STRONG NEIGHBORLY AND FILIAL TIES WITH BOTH COUNTRIES HE STATED: "RAIN SHALL CONTINUE HER EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR BRINGING CLOSER OUR TWO BROTHER COUNTRIES AND FOR ENDING THIS TENSION WHICH NOT ONLY IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF OUR TWO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, BUT IS A THREAT FOR THE WHOLE REGION, AND PERHAPS THE GREATER PEACE, WORLD PEACE."

4. IN SUBSEQUENT SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT'S BROTHER AND DEPFONMIN ABDULAH, AMBASSADOR RECEIVED STRONG IMPRESSION THAT IRANIANS HAVE ENHANCED AWARENESS OF PAK-AFGHAN TENSION AND THAT KHALATBERI URGED RESTRAINT. ABDULLAH DREW AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION TO SIGNIFICANCE OF BANQUET SPEECHES. IMPLICATION OF KHALATBERI'S REMARKS QUOTED PARA 3 MAY BE THAT IRAN HOPING LESSEN TENSION BEFORE FLASHPOINT IS REACHED IN AFGHAN/PAK RELATIONS.

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